

103. *Van Oort on a new Bird-of-Paradise.*

[On a new Bird-of-Paradise. By Dr. E. D. Van Oort. Notes Leyd. Mus. xxviii. p. 1 (1906).]

Heer Van Oort, who has succeeded Dr. Finsch in the care of the birds of the Leyden Museum, describes, under the name of *Neoparadisea ruysi*, a new Paradise-bird related to *Paradisea* and *Diphyllodes*, from a specimen presented to the Museum by Mr. T. H. Ruys. It was obtained by native hunters in 1905, near Warsembo, on the west coast of the Bay of Geelvink.

Heer Ruys also brought home a skin of the rare *Diphyllodes gulielmi-tertii*.

XXXIV.—*Obituary.*

Canon TRISTRAM, Dr. JEAN CABANIS, and Dr. VICTOR FATIO.

WITH deep regret we record the death of the Rev. HENRY BAKER TRISTRAM, F.R.S., Canon of Durham, one of the founders and original members of the British Ornithologists' Union. Canon Tristram was well known as an Author, a Traveller, a Naturalist, and an Antiquarian. It is, of course, to his work in Natural History that we shall mainly allude on the present occasion.

Canon Tristram was born on May 11th, 1822, at Eglingham, near Alnwick, the large country parish of which his father, Dr. H. B. Tristram, was at that time Vicar. He was educated at Durham School, and afterwards at Lincoln College, Oxford, where he graduated in 1844, taking a second class in Classics.

In 1845 Tristram was ordained Deacon by the Bishop of Exeter, and Priest in the following year, having been appointed Curate of Morton Bishop. But, shewing somewhat alarming signs of a weak chest, he was ordered abroad, and passed two years (1847–1849) as naval and military chaplain in Bermuda. In the latter year he was nominated Rector of Castle Eden, in Durham, and in 1860 Master of Greatham

Hospital and Rector of Greatham, where he remained until 1873, when he was appointed Canon of Durham, and resided in that city until his decease on the 8th of March last. We will now turn to his ornithological and other scientific work and publications.

From his early youth devoted to Natural History, Tristram, like many of us, commenced his writings on this engrossing subject in the ‘Zoologist,’ the first being “On the Occurrence of the Little Auk in Durham,” published in 1853 (*Zool.* p. 3753). Other short notes in the same periodical followed in 1854, 1856, 1859, and 1861. His first visit to Algeria was made in the winter of 1855–6, and in the following winter, having acquired the favour of Marshal Randon, the French Governor-General, he was enabled to push his excursions across the Atlas far into the interior of the Sahara, where, as he tells us, he found an “atmosphere bright, dry, and invigorating,” which exactly suited his ease. It was, in fact, to the two winters passed in Algeria that he always attributed his recovery from the malady which had threatened him.

The results of these expeditions were the excellent series of papers on the ornithology of Northern Africa published in this Journal in 1859, 1860, and 1861, and the very attractive volume on his journeyings in the “Great Sahara,” issued in 1860, which, in our opinion, may fairly claim a place of the very highest rank among the narratives of travels of Naturalists.

Another part of the world to which Tristram devoted special attention was Palestine. It was in the early part of 1858 that he first landed there, during a yachting visit to the Mediterranean. His ornithological notes written on this occasion were published in the first volume of ‘The Ibis,’ to which he was always a constant contributor. Several other winter-visits to Palestine followed, and in 1863 he stayed on in the Holy Land until the following summer. This visit was the chief origin of his instructive and charming volume on ‘The Land of Israel,’ published by the Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge in 1865.

In 1872 Tristram was again in Palestine, and pushed his travels beyond the Jordan. On this occasion he discovered the ruins of the great Persian Palace at Mashita, built by Chosroes about A.D. 614, which had been previously almost forgotten. Upon this journey he founded his interesting volume on 'The Land of Moab,' which was published in 1873.

Tristram's next trip to Palestine was in 1881, when he travelled from Jaffa to Hebron, and thence turned northwards to Damascus. From Damascus he made a long excursion across the Euphrates, and visited "Ur of the Chaldees." In 1894 he was again in Palestine, and again in 1897. It was on this last visit that, while riding with a party of friends near Jerusalem, he had his leg broken by the kick of a vicious horse. This would have finished off most men of the age of seventy-two. But such was not the case with our friend Tristram. After a few weeks in the hospital at Jerusalem he was pronounced to be sound again, and returned to England as full of energy and spirits as ever.

In all these journeyings, however, it must not be supposed that Tristram ever lost sight of his "dear birds." They were continually in his mind, and he was always collecting specimens and writing notes about them. In the pages of this Journal and elsewhere will be found upwards of seventy papers of more or less importance relating to his favourite subject. So far as regards Palestine, these notes will be found summarized and placed in systematic order in his great work on the 'Fauna and Flora of Palestine,' published by the Palestine Exploration Fund in 1884. This lasting monument of Canon Tristram's industry and learning is still the only published work dealing with the Natural History of the Bible-lands as a whole, and is likely long to remain so. A smaller and more popular work of Tristram's on the Natural History of Palestine, together with an account of its Geography, Geology, and Meteorology, was published by the "Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge" in 1867, and has gone through several editions.

But Tristram by no means confined his ornithological labours to one or two spots on the globe. He visited Norway, and was also indefatigable in amassing specimens from all quarters, while he was specially interested in obtaining them from remote oceanic islands and similar strange places. In 1889 he had got together over 17,000 specimens, and prepared and printed a catalogue of them. Many of them were of great rarity (e. g. *Nestor productus*, *Camptolæma labradoria*, *Monarcha dimidiatus*) and almost unknown elsewhere. Some years afterwards, fearing that on his death his famous collection might be dispersed, he came to an arrangement with the authorities of the Free Public Museums of Liverpool to take over the whole of his series of birds. In the Report of the Committee of this Institution for 1896 will be found a short account of this important acquisition, which is described as containing "20,000 specimens referable to 6,000 species, of which 150 are types."

About the same time the Canon's large and valuable collection of birds' eggs was disposed of to the late Philip Crowley, of Waddon House, Croydon. At Crowley's death, in 1901, it was directed that the whole of his collection of eggs should be at the disposal of the British Museum. All the valuable and important specimens of birds' eggs in the Tristram Collection will now, therefore, be found in the Cabinets at South Kensington.

Tristram's name and fame are well commemorated by several birds that bear his surname as their specific title. Among these the most appropriate to him is Tristram's Grakle (*Amydrus tristrami*), discovered by the traveller himself in the rocky gorges of the Dead Sea in January 1864*. It belongs to an otherwise exclusively African group of Starlings, of which it is the sole representative in Asia, and was dedicated by Selater to its discoverer.

Tristram was elected a Fellow of the Royal Society in 1868, and was also a Fellow, Member, or Correspondent of a number of other scientific and learned Societies at home and abroad.

* See 'The Land of Israel,' p. 209.

On the 5th of February, 1901, Canon and Mrs. Tristram celebrated their Golden Wedding. After this epoch Tristram dwelt principally at home in Durham, making occasional visits to London, where he attended the Anniversary Meeting of the British Ornithologists' Union in May 1903, and the dinner in the evening. Canon Tristram died "full of age and honours" in his residence at Durham, on March 8th, 1906, to the great sorrow of a wide circle of relatives, friends, and acquaintances, who appreciated the high qualities and many-sided knowledge of this remarkable man.

JEAN LOUIS CABANIS, an Honorary Member of the Union, known to many of us personally and to all of us as the Founder and for forty-one years Editor of the '*Journal für Ornithologie*,' was, according to information kindly sent to us by Herr Herman Schalow, born in Berlin on the 8th of March, 1815. He was of French origin, and belonged to a Huguenot family, which migrated into Mark Brandenburg in the days of the Great Elector. Cabanis went to school in Berlin, and studied at the University there from 1835 to 1839 under Johann Müller and Heinrich Lichtenstein. After finishing his University career he went on a voyage to North America, where he passed some time in South Carolina. On returning home in 1841 he was nominated by Lichtenstein Assistant in the Zoological Museum of the University, and in the year 1849 was promoted to be First Custos of the same Institution. Here he remained until his retirement in 1892, serving under Lichtenstein, Peters, and Möbius with equal zeal and fidelity, and editing the well-known Journal which he had planned and founded in 1843. Amongst other Ornithologists who were his pupils during this long period, or, at all events, came more or less under his guidance, we may mention the well-known names of Reichenow, von Tschusi, Stejneger, Berlepsch, Gadow, Fischer, Böhm, Kollibay, Hartert, Matschie, König, and Leverkühn.

The first important piece of ornithological work undertaken by Cabanis was his collaboration with Dr. J. J. v. Tschudi

in the "Aves" of the 'Fauna Peruana' (1845-6). Peru was a little-explored country in those days, and we can well understand that assistance from the Berlin Museum was of much value to the author. Cabanis's contributions to the 'Fauna Peruana' are mostly printed in footnotes, but it is evident that he exercised a general supervision over the whole of the text.

In 1847 Cabanis published in 'Wiegmann's Archiv' two parts of a remarkable memoir on the classification of the Passeres, in which it was first shown that two points previously almost neglected (the mode of scutellation of the tarsus and the number of the wing- and tail-feathers) were available for the subdivision of this great Order. These characters were further explained and utilized by Cabanis in subsequent publications, and are now generally allowed to be of leading importance. In 1848 Cabanis prepared the section relating to "Birds" for Schomburgk's 'Fauna and Flora of British Guiana'—the first systematic work on that subject, and even in these days often quoted and referred to as the best authority on the zoology of the country.

Two years later Cabanis began the 'Museum Heincanum,' perhaps the most important work he ever wrote, containing an account of the very extensive collection of birds belonging to Ferdinand Heine of Halberstadt and kept in his private museum. In this work, the last part of which was issued in 1863, numerous new genera and species were described and a large number of critical notes of every kind were introduced, while the system of classification which Cabanis advocated was fully set forth.

Other important memoirs and papers by Cabanis are his account of the birds of Cuba obtained by Gundlach (J. f. O. 1854-57); of those of Costa Rica from the collections of Hoffman and v. Frantzius (J. f. O. 1860-2); of Baron von der Decken's collection from East Africa (1869); of Schulz's Argentine collections (1883); and, in conjunction with Dr. Reichenow, of the ornithological results of the 'Gazelle' Expedition (1876). There are besides a number of other shorter papers and notes, which testify to his untiring

devotion to birds throughout his active life. Altogether he is said to have made 216 new genera and to have described 422 new species. From personal experience, the writer can say that Cabanis's knowledge of birds was extraordinary, and that, with the possible exception of John Gould, few ornithologists that he has known were able to pick out a new form from a collection with greater facility than Cabanis.

In 1892, after fifty years' service in the Berlin Museum, Cabanis celebrated his *jubileum* and retired into well-earned rest. The editorship of the '*Journal für Ornithologie*,' which he had commenced in 1853, was shortly afterwards transferred to Dr. Reichenow, his son-in-law and successor, by whom it is still carried on, as our readers know, with unremitting energy and well-deserved success.

Twenty-three birds bear the specific name "*cabanisi*," bestowed on them by various authors, and serve to perpetuate Cabanis's services to Ornithology.

Cabanis was elected an Honorary Member of the British Ornithologists' Union in 1860, at the first Anniversary Meeting after the Union was constituted, and at his decease was the only Honorary Member left of that early date. He was likewise, we need hardly say, a member or associate of all the leading Societies that have the promotion of Zoology as their object.

After his retirement from his official duties Cabanis lived at his private residence at Frederickshagen, near Berlin. In August 1901 he attended the International Zoological Congress at Berlin, where the writer of this notice had the pleasure of greeting him, apparently in excellent health.

Cabanis died after a short illness at his own residence, on the 20th of February last, at the age of ninety years and eleven months.—P. L. S.

With much regret we have also to record the death of one of our Foreign Members, Dr. VICTOR FATIO, of Geneva, well known to most of us as one of the leading authorities on the Birds of Switzerland.

Victor Fatio was born at Geneva on the 28th of November,

1838, and, on completing his studies at the Gymnasium and Academy there, proceeded to Zurich and afterwards to the Universities of Berlin and Leipzig. At Leipzig he was a pupil of Dubois Reymond, and obtained his Doctorship in Philosophy by his thesis "*De Avium corpore pneumatico.*" After accomplishing his term of military service Fatio was laid prostrate by a serious attack of typhus, the effect of which was a complete loss of memory. This obliged him to recommence his studies, which he did with great zeal, passing a year at Paris, under the guidance of Henri Milne-Edwards, in the Museums and Laboratories of the Jardin des Plantes. Returning to Geneva in 1862 he thenceforth devoted himself to the Natural History of his native country. Associated with Henri de Saussure and other savants, he was long and deeply engaged in the study of the *Phylloclera*, and was for nineteen years President of the Federal Commission on that important subject sitting at Berne. Amongst these and many similar occupations, however, he never forgot his favourite birds, being President of the "Société Ornithologique Suisse," and representing his country at the Ornithological Congresses of Vienna, Budapest, Paris, and London.

In his labours on the birds of Switzerland, Fatio was closely associated with Prof. Studer of Berne, and in conjunction with him prepared and published a Catalogue of Swiss Birds ('Katalog des Schweizerischen Vögel, Catalogue des Oiseaux de la Suisse'), which appeared in three parts in 1889, 1894, and 1901. But a still more important work is the 'Histoire Naturelle des Oiseaux,' which forms two volumes of Fatio's 'Faune des Vertébrés de la Suisse,' and is the most complete and trustworthy account of the birds of Switzerland. The first volume of this work was issued in 1899, the second, lately noticed by us ('Ibis,' 1905, p. 120), in 1904.

Fatio was elected a Foreign Member of the British Ornithologists' Union in 1872, and a Corresponding Member of the Zoological Society of London in 1897. His learning and industry were much appreciated all over the Continent; he was made a Commander of the Royal Order of Christ of

Portugal, and received many other Orders and Honours from Austria, France, Germany, Italy, Russia, Servia, and Spain. His last communication to this Journal ("Sur le Waldrapp de Gessner") appeared as lately as January of this year (see above, p. 139), and we have been informed that he continued his usual work nearly up to the time of his decease, which took place at Geneva on the 18th of March last, in the 67th year of his age.

XXXV.—*Letters, Notes, and Extracts.*

WE have received the following letters addressed to "The Editors of 'The Ibis'" :—

Note on the Eggs of Ross's Rosy Gull (Plate XX.).—In a previous number of this Journal ('Ibis,' 1906, pp. 131–139) Mr. S. A. Buturlin gave us a most interesting account of his discovery of the breeding-grounds of the rare Ross's Gull (*Rhodostethia rosea*) in the delta of the Kolymá River in North-eastern Siberia. I have now received from him some of its eggs, sent in order that I might have them figured, as they are undoubtedly the first authentic eggs of this species that have as yet been received in Europe. In the article above referred to Mr. Buturlin has given such full particulars of the nidification and breeding-habits that I need say nothing further here, except to remark that these eggs, as will be seen from the figures (Plate XX.), cannot be mistaken for those of any other Gull, except perhaps those of *Xema sabini*. From the latter, however, they may be distinguished by being decidedly green in the tone of their colour, whereas those of *Xema sabini* are not so, and by having the surface of the shell dull and glossless, whereas the eggs of Sabine's Gull are somewhat glossy. Together with the eggs of *Rhodostethia rosea*, Mr. Buturlin has sent me eggs of the following species, viz.:—*Sterna macrura* (this being the species referred to in his article, p. 135 footnote), *Larus glaucus*, *Phalaropus fulicarius*, *Nettion*